# SARS Coronavirus

Presentation:

1. 44 yr old with fever, cough, myalgias, mild SOB for 2 days, also moderate headache and several episodes of diarrhea in last 24 hrs
2. had taken care of patient with severe respiratory illness
3. pulse ox: 94%

SARS-CoV

1. viral respiratory illness caused by coronavirus- large enveloped, positive stranded RNA viruses
2. outer envelope has club-shaped peplomers, giving crownlike appearance
3. considered a group 4 coronavirus
4. found in nasopharyngeal aspirate, urine, stools of SARS patients

Epidemiology:

1. SARS has not spread widely to the US
2. transmission through large aerosolized droplets / direct and fomite contact

Pathogenesis:

1. coronaviruses are transmitted by aerosols of respiratory secretions, by fecal-oral route, and by mechanical transmission
2. incubation: 2-10 days.
3. SARS is a form of viral pneumonia in the LRT
4. have diffuse alveolar damage with a mixture of inflammatory infiltration and multinucleated giant cells with no conspicuous viral inclusions
5. progresses: see increased fibrosis, squamous metaplasia, multinucleated giant cells

Treatment:

1. supportive care is all that works
2. many things have been tried, including steroids, but nothing works
3. Prevention: early recognition and isolation of SARS patients.